farmers to set up their own curing houses. Curing houses have been set up by growers with financial and technical assistance from the Board in production areas.

(g) Value added products viz. cardamom cola, cardamom flavoured biscuits, chewing gum and candy were developed using cardamom small with the assistance of Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore and International Trade Centre, Geneva.

In respect of cardamom large, Board has introduced scientific curing methods for uniform drying and retention of colour with the technical assistance from CFTRI, Mysore. With the result, the price fetched for the produce has appreciated and uniform colour is retained ensuing consumer acceptance.

Position of Multi-Fibre Agreement in view of GATT

4311. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the exact position of the Multi-Fibre Agreement with USA in view of GATT ;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from the industry with respect to this; and

(c) what is Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The textiles bilateral agreement between India and the USA has been extended for a further period of one year i.e. 1994 on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in New Delhi on January, 22, 1994. The Memorandum of Understanding also provides for a further extension of the bilateral agreement by one year in case the Uruguay Round transition arrangement does not come into force by 1st January, 1995.

The extended bilateral agreement provides for additional access of 8% over and above the total level that would have been available for 1994 on the basis of a simple roll over of the agreement with the existing growth rates.

As and when the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round comes into effect the bilateral agreement between the U.S. and the India will cease to have effect. However, the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing in the Final Act envisages that the restraint levels and growth rates provided for in the bilateral agreement for various categories would determine the access for these resained categories during the transition period till such time as they are integrated into the GATT. The Exporting community in India has welcomed the Indo-US textile agreement entered into between the two countries in the last week of January, 1994.

Working of Trade Development Authority

4312. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the members of the Trade Development Authority and their respective qualifications;

(b) the reports which have been prepared by the Trade Development Authority during the year ending 31st March, 1994;

(c) whether any evaluation has been done about the working of the Trade Development Authority and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Trade Development Authority is still relevant in view of the new Trade Policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) There is currently no organisation by the name and title of Trade Development Authority (TDA). The erstwhile TDA was dissolved on 31st December, 1991 and merged with erstwhile Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI) on 1st January, 1992 to form a new organisation under the name of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) which was registered with Registrar of Companies on 23rd April, 1992. 163 officers and staff of erstwhile TDA were absorbed into the new organisation.

(b) The Trade Development and Merchandising Division and Computer and Information Division of ITPO which are looking after the functions of erstwhile

TDA, have conducted various studies/market surveys/seminars/workshops/projects and published 13 different reports during the year 1993-94.

(c) and (d) With the growth of erstwhile TDA and TFAI, it was found that there was considerable over-lapping and complementarity in their working in the respective fields of participation in fairs and also organisation of Buyer-Seller Meets. The Government decided to merge the two erstwhile organisations as it is expected that the integration of the two organisations into one unit will yield better programme coordination and maximum utilisation of the expertise available on Ex-TFAI and Ex-TDA side to each other and thus provide a kind of trade promotion support which can pay for itself to a large extent through its usefulness, timeliness and quality of service rendered to the users.

Norms for export houses

4313. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the Government have recently relax and norms for the export houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these export houses would benefit as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) No Sir. The eligibility norms for the recognition as Export House remain unchanged.

Proposal to review Export Oriented Unit Schemes

4314. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of COMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to review the working of Export Oriented Units Scheme in view of persistent complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that exporters' performances during the past several years have been declining due to ineffective EOU scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Review of the EOU Scheme is an on-going process, which is done from time to time on the basis of representations/demand from EOUs.

The policy and procedures for the EOU Scheme have been reviewed last year by a Committee comprising of representatives from Trade and Industry, concerned Ministries and field organisations etc. Action on the recommendations of the Committee has been initiated and certain amendments to EXIM Policy effected.

(c) and (d) The exports from EOU sector are growing and reached a level of Rs. 1946 crores in 1992-93 against Rs. 1046 crores in the previous year. Exports in 1993-94 are also expected to maintain an upward trend.

Joint Business Council Agreement

4315. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 countries have approached India for entering into Joint Business Council Agreement with them for the promotion of trade and investment flows;

(b) if so, what are the names of such countries; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of countries are as under :

(1) Morocco
(2) Uganda
(3) The Philippines
(4) Macedonia
(5) Mozambique
(6) Kuwait
(7) Syria